Pinyin language

Pinyin is a Grassfields language spoken by some 27,000 people in the Northwest Region of Cameroon.

Pinyin	
Region	Northwest Region, Cameroon
Native speakers	25,000 (2001)[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo ■ Atlantic–Congo ■ Benue–Congo ■ Southern Bantoid ■ Grassfields ■ Eastern ■ Ngemba ■ **Pinyin**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	pny
Glottolog	piny1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/piny1238)[2]

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Phonology

Consonants

Consonants

Phoneme	Allophones	Environment	Orthography
p	p		⟨p⟩
	pʰ	Before /u/ in an open syllable.	
	b	After /ṇ/.	⟨b⟩
	β	Between vowels within a root.	
t	t		⟨t⟩
k	k	Beginning of words and of roots within words, and after /ṇ/.	⟨k⟩
	ʔ	Only C found at ends of words.	⟨'⟩
kʷ	kʷ		⟨kw⟩
l	l	In roots.	⟨l⟩
	ɾ	In suffixes.	⟨r⟩
	d	After /ṇ/.	⟨d⟩
ɣ	ɣ		⟨gh⟩
	g	After /ṇ/.	⟨g⟩
ɣʷ	gʷ	After /ṇ/.	⟨gw⟩
f	f		⟨f⟩
s	s	/ts/ after /ṇ/.	⟨s⟩
ts	ts		⟨ts⟩
z	z		⟨z⟩
	dz	After /ṇ/.	
ʃ	ʃ	/tʃ/ after /ṇ/.	⟨sh⟩
tʃ	tʃ		⟨ch⟩
ʒ	ʒ		⟨zh⟩
	dʒ	After /ṇ/.	⟨j⟩
m	m		⟨m⟩
n	n		⟨n⟩
ɲ	ɲ		⟨ny⟩
ŋ	ŋ		⟨ŋ⟩
Ṇ	m̩ n̩ ŋ̍	Homorganic with following C. Carries tone.	⟨m⟩, ⟨n⟩
w	w		⟨w⟩
ɥ	ɥ		⟨ẅ⟩
j	j		⟨y⟩

Sequences are:

py (mby), ly (ndy), ty, ky, ngy, my, kẅ, ngẅ (= /kʷj, gʷj/)
pw (mbw), lw (ndw), tw, tsw, chw, shw, sw, zw, zhw, nw, nyw, ŋw

All noun and verb roots begin with a consonant; initial vowels are necessarily prefixes. Only /a, ɨ/ occur in prefixes or at the beginning of words, and only /ə/ occurs in suffixes. /ɨ, y/ do not occur at the ends of words.

Vowels

Vowels

Phoneme	Orthography
i	i
y	ʉ
ɛ	e
a	a
ɔ	o
u	u
ə	ə
ɨ	ɨ

All known long vowels may occur medially or at ends of words, none at the beginning, though long /ɛ, y/ are not attested. Long vowels are written double: *aa, əə, ii, ‿ɨɨ, oo, uu*. Diphthongs *ie, iə, ʉə, ɨə, uə* take a single tone.

Tones are high, mid, low, rising, falling. They are written as in IPA, apart from low, which is not written: *á ā a ǎ â*. Falling tone is largely confined to suffixes, and rising tone is rare, found only on a few nouns such as *tǎ* 'father'.

References

1. Pinyin (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/pny/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Pinyin" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/piny1238). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

- The Pinyin Orthography Guide (http://www.silcam.org/download.php?sstid=030401&folder=documents&file=PinyinOrthographyRevised2005.pdf) (Njeck Mathaus Mbah & Stephen C. Anderson, 2005)